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In 1934 the Association for the Insurance of Horses and Cows was organized in the village with the help of the veterinary doctor stationed there at that time. He was acting under the guidance of the Bulgarian National Cooperative Bank. The idea back of the association was to make it possible for peasants to obtain additional credit, since no credit could be extended by the bank on uninsured animals. Insured animals were considered better collateral than land and were allowed a greater percentage of money in proportion to value. When the organization was first founded, the fifteen or sixteen charter members entered because they were in favor of insurance. The seventeen members who joined later did so because they needed to insure their animals to get a loan, regardless of their attitude toward insurance.

In the normal life of this organization almost no difficulties were encountered. The members used the schoolhouse for the annual meeting, which was open to all outsiders. There was an executive council, a control committee, and a committee for the evaluation of animals. A president was elected every year and a treasurer every three years. Some of the committee members were changed each year. If a farmer wished to join the association, the proper committee appraised his animals and insurance was assessed at the rate of 4 per cent of the total value of the animal.

The conservatism of the peasants prevented any rapid growth of such an organization. As one peasant, not a member, explained: "I haven't joined because I feel that here we have good air, good food, and good water for our animals, and therefore they aren't as subject to diseases as are the animals nearer Sofia. God is kind."

A few years ago a private insurance association was organized which ended unfortunately for the investors. This failure was cited by some people as an additional reason why they should not join the present association, though it was backed by the Co-operative Bank.

In order to get a better idea of the relationships among the members and between the members and the officers of the Insurance Association, I interviewed fifteen of the thirty people registered and found that:

1. Friendship played little part in determining who should become members.

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2. The reasons for joining were varied:
   a. "I have six cows. Need help in case a cow dies."
   b. "I wanted to get money from the bank."
   c. "The veterinary doctor enrolled me when he organized the association."

3. All members were satisfied with the officers who represented them.

4. The relations with the Co-operative Bank in Sofia had been cordial. Once a year the bank sent out a commission to see that everything in the village was in order; a commission also came out in case of the death of an animal.

The Insurance Association illustrated the way many village organizations arose in Bulgarian villages. The idea of the organization originated in Sofia, was put into effect by a State employee, and members were recruited from those who thought that their interests would be served by belonging. A glance at the list of members, ranging in age from twenty-four to sixty, showed that they were among the most enterprising in the village. The organization would doubtless have been only half as large had it not been for the ruling of the bank which required insurance on any animals put up as collateral. Since the association did not attempt to teach the peasants how to feed or stable the animals, it was missing a real opportunity for further service.

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The traditional economy of Dragalevtsy had therefore been subjected not only to the incursion of commerce with its emphasis upon money, but also to the formation of co-operatives to meet some specific needs of a group of interested persons. In addition there was a concerted effort throughout Bulgaria by the national government to raise the peasants' plane of living. Some of this activity found expression in Dragalevtsy, largely through the initiative of the county agent or *agronom* who was concerned with the improvement of agriculture and livestock. Since he had to care for almost a score of other villages, his visits to Dragalevtsy were few and far between, so the peasants were quite correct in saying that little was being done for the improvement of agriculture in the village. While the county *agronom*

474 of 10,622,277 and 14,481,696 leva respectively. The sales for the year were estimated at 376,289,157 and 37,964,023, and the profit for the "Napred group" was 583,107 leva, showing a diminution of 294,138 on the previous year, while the remaining eight co-operatives had sustained a loss of 4,229,855 leva, this being an increase by 1,729,028 on the loss sustained in 1932. The loss however was not equally apportioned, two co-operatives having incurred a loss of 4,792,880 leva, and six having realised a profit of 752,025. The average purchases per member of the second group was about 4,935 leva or approximately £11·75, while its profit and loss account figured at 5,862,346 and 10,083,209 respectively, disbursements on salaries accounting for 22%, interest for 12% loss on merchandise for 29% of this latter figure, while 97% of the former figure was ascribed to profit on the sale of merchandise.

474 456 The most remarkable success registered among co-operative societies is undoubtedly that of the "Functionaries' Insurance Association", and as M. T. G. Vlaikov pointed out, this result has been secured by its directors' rigorous abstention from politics, honest management and devotion to the aim of the association. Its growing importance may be gauged by the fact that of the total insurances on life in force during 1931, namely of a value of 3,601 million leva, policies to the value of 1424 millions had been issued by this association alone. Its success is well deserved for it has been most generous in dispensing grants to its sick members and it even maintains sickhouses and sanatoria for the construction of which it has spent several million leva.

474 In conclusion the following table may be given of the total number of co-operative societies functioning at the end of 1933 according to the official statistics.